

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached "Replacement Sheets" of drawings includes changes to Figures 1-3. The attached "Replacement Sheets," which includes Figures 1-3, replace the original sheets including Figures 1-3.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

DRAWINGS

The drawings stand objected to for certain informalities. Applicants have attached revised drawings for the Examiner's approval. In the "Replacement Sheets," snubber ring 32 and heat shield 34 are shown. Accordingly, the drawings should now be in condition for allowance.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 AND 103

Claims 1-4 and 9-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Takashima et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6550753). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 5 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takashima et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6550753) in view of Kato (U.S. Pat. No. 4997168). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 7, 8, and 12-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takashima et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6550753) in view of Yakoi et al (U.S. Pat. No. 4806437). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takashima et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6550753) in view of Yakoi et al (U.S. Pat. No.

4806437), and further in view of Kato (U.S. Pat. No. 4997168). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

At the outset, Applicants note that claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation of "said travel restrictor includes an outwardly bent flange for engaging an interior surface of said elastomeric bumper for retaining said elastomeric bumper." The invention, as claimed, allows easier manufacture and assembly of the elastomeric bumper. The disclosure of Takashima fails to disclose a travel restrictor including an outwardly bent flange for engaging an interior surface of an elastomeric bumper for retaining the bumper, as claimed. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 are respectfully requested. Claims 2-11 depend from claim 1 and should be allowable for the same reasons as claim 1, as discussed above.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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Electronic Signature: /Ryan W. Massey/
Ryan W. Massey, Reg. No. 38,543

HARNES, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:

CUSTOMER NO. 29293

Freudenberg-NOK General Partnership
Legal Department
47690 East Anchor Court
Plymouth, MI 48170-2455
Ph: (734) 354-5445
Fax: (734) 451-1445

RWM/dcra